N°5.

AN OFFICE FOR CONSECRATION OR RESTAURATION OF A CHURCH.

Compiled from ſeveral Offices.

Printed in the Year M DCC LVI.

AN

OFFICE, &c.

On the Day and Hour appointed the Bell ſhall toll.

The Patron, or Church-wardens, receive the Biſhop at the Weſt Door of the Church, with the Petition for Conſecration in Hand, and preſent it to the Biſhop.

The Biſhop having received it, procedeth, attended by his Chancellor, Clergy, and Officers, to the Communion Table, ſaying,

" Peace be to this Houſe, and to all aſſembled therein."

The Biſhop habited within the Rails, and ſeated, delivereth the Petition into the Hands of the Chancellor, or Regiſtrary, who readeth it aloud.

[*When a Church is conſecrated by Commiſſion, then the Regiſtrary preſenteth the Commiſſion to the conſecrating Biſhop, who returneth it to be read by the Regiſtrary.*]

The Biſhop riſing from his Chair, turneth to the Congregation, and ſaith,

Biſhop *Gibſon.* DEarly beloved in the Lord, foraſmuch as devout and holy Men, as well under the Law, as under the Goſpel, moved either by the ſecret Inſpiration of the bleſſed Spirit, by expreſs Command of God, or by their own Reaſon, and Senſe of the natural Decency of Things, have erected Houſes for the public Worſhip of God, and ſeparated them from all profane and common Uſes, in order to fill Mens Minds with greater Reverence for his glorious Majeſty, and affect their Hearts with more Devotion and Humility in his Service; and theſe their pious Works have been approved, and graciouſly accepted, by our heavenly Father; Let us not doubt, but he will alſo graciouſly approve this our godly Purpoſe, of ſetting apart this Place, in ſolemn Manner, for the Performance of the ſeveral Offices of our religious Worſhip, and let us faithfully, and devoutly, beg his Bleſſing on this our Undertaking.

Then

Then kneeling at the Table, ſaith, Let us pray,

Our Father, which art in Heaven, *&c.*

O Eternal God, who filleſt Heaven and Earth with thy glorious Preſence, and canſt not be comprehended within the largeſt Circuit, much leſs in this narrow Houſe, which we are now come to ſet apart for thy Worſhip and Service: Nevertheleſs, ſince it hath pleaſed Thee to promiſe Thy ſpecial Preſence there, where two or three are gathered together in thy Name, We do here, with all Humility, wholly devote and dedicate this Place from henceforth for ever unto Thy Divine Majeſty: And utterly ſeparating it from all other Uſes, do Conſecrate it to Thy Worſhip and Service alone, for the offering up the Sacrifice of Prayer and Thankſgiving unto Thee, for hearing and teaching Thy holy Word, and celebrating Thy Sacraments. It is a great Boldneſs indeed in Us, to appropriate any earthly Thing to ſo great a Majeſty: And I, thy Miniſter, am very unworthy to appear before Thee, in ſo honourable an Employment; but we are encouraged by Thy infinite Mercies to hope, that

Biſhop *Patrick.*

Where a Church is to be reſtored, may be ſaid devote and dedicate once more, *and* conſecrate it again, *and ſo thro' this whole Office.*

that Thou wilt pardon our Offences, and condeſcend to be preſent among us in this religious Act. Vouchſafe, O Lord, to accept it graciouſly at our Hands, to take this for thine own Houſe, and to pour down Thy Bleſſings upon us, and all others, who now or hereafter come into it to call upon Thee; And give both us and them the Grace, whenſoever we make our Addreſſes here unto Thee, to bring hither holy Thoughts, pure Hearts, Bodies undefiled, and Minds ſanctified, that we may offer up acceptable Sacrifices unto Thee, through our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Chriſt Jeſus; To whom with the Father, &c.

After which, turning to the Congregation he uſeth theſe Suffrages; the People anſwering to each Amen.

Biſhop *Gibſon.* REgard, O Lord, the Supplications of thy Servants, and grant, that by thy holy Word, which ſhall be read and preached in this Place, the Hearers thereof may both perceive and know what Things they ought to do, and may have Grace and Power faithfully to fulfill the ſame. *Amen.*

Grant,

GRant, O Lord, that all they, who, by our Office and Miniſtry, ſhall be dedicated to thee in this Houſe, by Baptiſm, or ſhall renew the Promiſe therein made, by Confirmation, may be incorporated into thy holy Church, received for thine own Children by Adoption, and daily increaſe in thy holy Spirit more and more, until they come to thine everlaſting Kingdom. *Amen.*

GRant, O Lord, that whoſoever ſhall receive, in this Place, the bleſſed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Chriſt thy Son, may come to that holy Ordinance with Faith, Charity, and true Repentance, and being filled with thy Grace and heavenly Benediction, may, to their great and endleſs Comfort, obtain Remiſſion of their Sins, and all other Benefits of his Paſſion. *Amen.*

GRant, O Lord, that whoſoever ſhall be joined together, in this Place, in the holy Eſtate of Matrimony, may perform and keep the Vow and Covenant, between them made, and may remain in perfect Love together to their Lives End. *Amen.*

Grant,

GRant, we beſeech thee, bleſſed Lord, that whoſoever ſhall draw near unto thee, in this Place, to confeſs their Sins unto thee, to beg Pardon for what they have done amiſs, to give thee Thanks for the Benefits they have received at thy Hands, or to ſet forth thy Praiſe and Glory, may do it with that Stedfaſtneſs of Faith, that Seriouſneſs of Attention, and with that devout Affection of Mind, that thou mayeſt hearken to their Praiſe, and grant their Petitions. *Amen.*

The Biſhop returneth to his Chair, and delivereth the Act of Conſecration to the Chancellor, or Regiſtrary, who readeth it aloud, and then layeth it on the Table.

After which the Biſhop prayeth, ✻

O Lord, we beſeech thee, cleanſe and defend thy Church, and becauſe it cannot continue in Safety without thy Succour, preſerve it evermore by thy Help and Goodneſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

NOW to the King eternal, immortal, invi-
ſible, the only wiſe God, be Honor and Glory in
all Churches of the Saints, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Bell tolling awhile, the Miniſter beginneth

Morning Prayer.

Proper Pſalms lxxxiv. cxxii. cxxxii.

Firſt Leſſon, 2 Chron. vi. *to* v. 22.

Inſtead of We praiſe thee, O God. *O all ye Works of the Lord.*

Second Leſſon, John x. *from* v. 22.

Inſtead of the Collect for the Day, the Biſhop prayeth,

O Moſt Great and Glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth, who art high above all Nations, and thy Glory above the Heavens; who is like unto the Lord our God who dwelleth on high, and yet humbleth himſelf to behold the Things that are in Heaven and Earth? Behold, O Lord, us thy unworthy Servants, who are here ſupplicating thy Divine Majeſty; and behold this Biſhop *Patrick.*

Place, which we are emboldened, by the Examples of thy Saints in all Ages, to Conſecrate to thy Service. Teſtify, O Lord, thy gracious Acceptance of it, by granting the Petitions which are made to Thee in this Place; and by diſpoſing the Hearts of thoſe that here worſhip Thee, to offer up themſelves with pure and devout Affections to Thee. Poſſeſs them with ſuch a due, awful, and reverent Senſe of Thee, when they here approach unto Thy Majeſty, that they may feel thou art preſent with them in Prayer, and hearing thy holy Word, in receiving the Sacrament of Chriſt's Body and Blood, and in all other holy Duties and religious Offices, that ſhall be performed in this Place. Grant, O Lord, they may have their deſired effect; and that by our ſenſible increaſe in Faith and Holineſs, we may know Thou art among us of a truth, according to the promiſe of our Bleſſed Saviour, that if we love him, and keep his Word, Thou wilt love us and come unto us, and make thy abode with us. To him with Thee, O Father, and the holy Ghoſt, be all Honour, Glory and Praiſe, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

After

After the Litany the Biſhop prayeth,

O Almighty God, who dwelleſt not in Temples made with hands, and yet haſt always vouchſafed to accept of the devout Affections of thy poor Creatures, in erecting and ſeparating ſpecial places for Divine Offices, and there haſt been graciouſly pleaſed to grant their requeſts: We moſt humbly beſeech Thee to accept Our this day's Duty and Service, of Dedicating this Church to Thy great and dreadful Name. Be Thou always preſent in the Aſſemblies of thy faithful Servants, who ſhall meet together in this Sacred place, to Worſhip Thee, and to beg thy Bleſſing. Bleſs them, O Lord, with the abundance of thy Grace: Fulfill all their Petitions which they make unto Thee, according to thy Will: eſpecially their Prayers for thy holy Spirit, to fill them with the Knowledge of thy Will in all Wiſdom and ſpiritual Underſtanding, that they may walk worthy of Thee unto all pleaſing, being fruitful in every good Work, and increaſing in the knowledge of Thee our God, through Jeſus Chriſt our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.* Biſhop *Patrick.*

Then the Miniſter procedeth to the End of Morning Service.

The C. *Pſalm to be ſung.*

The Biſhop, attended by 2 *Prieſts, beginneth*

THE

Communion Service.

After the Prayer for the King, inſtead of the Collect for the Day,

Biſhop *Patrick.* MOſt Bleſſed Saviour, who, by thy bodily Preſence at the Feaſt of Dedication, didſt approve and honour ſuch Religious Services as this which we now perform: Vouchſafe, we beſeech Thee, to make Thyſelf ſpiritually preſent to us, both now and ever, when the holy Sacrament, of thy bleſſed Body and Blood, ſhall be prepared for us at this thy Table. Stir up in us, by the Power of thy holy Spirit, ſuch

ſuch heavenly thoughts and affections: Work in us ſuch godly reſolution, to dedicate ourſelves intirely to Thee, that we may worthily commemorate thy wonderful Love in dying for us. And becauſe Holineſs becometh thine Houſe for ever, Conſecrate us, both in Soul and Body, to be an holy Temple to thine own ſelf; That thou dwelling in our Hearts by Faith and Love, we may be ſo cleanſed from all ſinful affections, as to be devoutly given to ſerve Thee in all good works, to the Glory of thy Bleſſed Name; To whom with the Father and the holy Ghoſt, be all Honour and Glory, World without End. *Amen.*

Junior Prieſt readeth the Epiſtle, 1 Cor. x. 15.

Senior Prieſt readeth the Goſpel, Matt. xxi. v. 12 *to* 17.

After the Nicene Creed the Biſhop procedeth, and after the Prayer for the Church militant prayeth,

WE bleſs thy great and glorious Name, O Lord our God, that it pleaſeth thee, who dwelleſt in the higheſt Heavens, to look down upon the Habitations of the Sons of Men, and to vouchſafe

vouchſafe thy Preſence in the Congregations of the righteous. Bleſſed be thy Name, O Lord, that thou haſt put it into the Hearts of thy Servants to build this Houſe, wherein we are now aſſembled, to thy Praiſe and Glory. Good Lord bleſs them, and proſper thou the Work of their Hands upon them! O proſper thou their handy Work. Let this Houſe be wholely ſet apart, henceforward, to the Glory of thy Name, the Service of true Religion, the Preaching of thy bleſſed Word, and the Miniſtration of thy holy Sacraments; and do thou, who knoweſt our Neceſſities, before we ask, and our Ignorance in asking, have Compaſſion upon our Infirmities, and thoſe Things, which for our Unworthineſs we dare not, and for our Blindneſs we cannot ask, vouchſafe to give us for the Worthineſs of thy dear Son, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, we beſeech thee to keep thy Church, and Houſehold, continually in thy true Religion, that they, who do lean only upon the Hope of thy heavenly Grace, may evermore be defended

defended by thy mighty Power, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

KEEP, we beſeech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual Mercy; and, becauſe the Frailty of Man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy Help from all Things hurtful, and lead us to all Things profitable to our Salvation, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the Biſhop diſmiſſeth the Congregation,

THE Peace of God, which paſſeth all Underſtanding, keep your Hearts and Minds in the Knowledge and Love of God, and of his Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord: And the Bleſſing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the holy Ghoſt, be amongſt you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

End of the Office, &c.

When

[*Where a Church-yard is to be conſecrated, the Biſhop walking in Proceſſion round it, repeateth the three Sentences in the Burial Service*, I am the Reſurrection, *&c.* I know that my Redeemer liveth, *&c.* We brought nothing into this World, *&c.*]

Then the Biſhop concludeth, praying,

Biſhop *Gibſon.* O God, who haſt taught us in thy holy Word, that the Bodies of thy Saints are committed to the Ground, in ſure and certain Hopes of a Reſurrection to eternal Life, accept we beſeech thee this ſolemn Work of ours, in ſeparating this Portion of Ground from all profane and ungodly Uſe, that the Bodies, therein interred, may reſt in Peace unto the Judgment of the laſt Day; and give us alſo Grace, that by the frequent Inſtances of Mortality, that we behold, we may learn, and ſeriouſly conſider, how frail and uncertain our Condition here on Earth is, and ſo number our Days, as to apply our Hearts unto Wiſdom, that at the Reſurrection of the Juſt, we may have our Part with him, who died for our Sins, and roſe again for our Juſtification, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the holy Ghoſt, World without End. *Amen.*

THE END.